

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1 to 13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) An emission control system, comprising:  
a particle filter; and  
an arrangement separate and spaced apart from the particle filter and  
disposed upstream from the particle filter and configured to at least reduce clogging  
of the particle filter by prevention of development of at least one of zinc-, alkaline-  
and earth alkaline-containing sulfate ash upstream from the particle filter between  
the particle filter and the arrangement by one of transformation and maintenance of  
at least one of the compounds responsible for sulfate ash formation in the gaseous  
state, the arrangement including:

a device configured to collect at least a portion of the sulfate ash-  
forming compounds contained in the exhaust gas; and  
a device configured to convert the collected sulfate ash-forming  
compounds into gaseous compounds of sulfur that do not form sulfate ash.

15. (Previously Presented) The emission control system according to claim  
14, wherein the emission control system is configured for use with an internal  
combustion engine.

16. (Previously Presented) The emission control system according to claim  
14, wherein the arrangement includes an SO<sub>x</sub> collector.

Claims 17 and 18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously Presented) The emission control system according to claim  
14, wherein the arrangement includes an oxidation catalyst.

20. (Previously Presented) The emission control system according to claim 16, wherein the arrangement includes an oxidation catalyst.

Claims 21 to 25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously Presented) The emission control system according to claim 14, wherein the gaseous compounds of sulfur that do not form sulfate ash include at least one of  $\text{SO}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{COS}$ .

27. (Previously Presented) The emission control system according to claim 35, wherein the gaseous compounds of sulfur that do not form sulfate ash include at least one of  $\text{SO}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{COS}$ .

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the gaseous compounds of sulfur that do not form sulfate ash include at least one of  $\text{SO}_3$ ,  $\text{SO}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{COS}$ .

29. (Previously Presented) The emission control system according to claim 14, wherein the arrangement includes an  $\text{NO}_x$  collector.

30. (Previously Presented) The emission control system according to claim 16, wherein the arrangement includes an  $\text{NO}_x$  collector.

31. (Previously Presented) The emission control system according to claim 30, wherein the arrangement includes an oxidation catalyst.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for operating an emission control system including a particle filter and an arrangement separate and spaced apart from the particle filter and disposed upstream from the filter and configured to at least reduce clogging of the particle filter by prevention of development of at least one of zinc-, alkaline- and earth alkaline-containing sulfate ash between the particle filter and the arrangement upstream from the particle filter, comprising the steps of:

maintaining at least a portion of the compounds responsible for the sulfate ash formation in a gaseous state;

collecting at least a portion of the sulfate ash-forming compounds contained in the exhaust gas; and

converting the collected sulfate ash-forming compounds into gaseous compounds of sulfur that do not form sulfate ash.

33. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

operating the emission control system in a normal operating phase with a lean composition to store sulfur contained in the exhaust gas; and

operating the emission control system in a regeneration phase with a rich exhaust composition to release stored sulfur as at least one gaseous compound.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the step of operating the emission control system in the regeneration phase includes the substep of raising an exhaust temperature to between 550 °C and 700 °C.

35. (Currently Amended) An emission control system, comprising:

a particle filter, and

an arrangement separate and spaced apart from the particle filter disposed upstream from the particle filter, the arrangement being configured to at least reduce clogging of the particle filter by prevention of development of at least one of zinc-, alkaline- and earth alkaline-containing sulfate ash upstream from the particle filter between the particle filter and the arrangement by transforming or maintaining at least one of the compounds being responsible for the sulfate ash formation in the gaseous state, and including:

means for collecting at least a portion of the sulfate ash-forming compounds contained in the exhaust gas; and

means for converting the collected sulfate ash-forming compounds into gaseous compounds of sulfur that do not form sulfate ash.